Progress in the establishment of radio station at Aligarh

*177. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1093 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st March, 1990 and state·

(a) what progress has been made towards establishing a local radio station at Aligarh with 2x3 KW FM Transmitters, Multipurpose Studio, Receiving facilities and Staff Quarters;

(b) by when the work was initially targeted to be completed; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be completed now ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROAD CASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY)· (a) to (c) The site for setting up the Radio Station at Aligarh was taken over on 18-8-90. Fencing of the site has been done and preliminary estimate is under preparation.

While formulation the VII Plan, the scheme was envisaged to be completed with in the Plan period itself. However, due to non-availability of suitable site in time, the scheme has slipped over to the VIII plan period.

The proposed Radio Station at Aligarh is now scheduled to be technically ready during 1993-94.

Constitution of a Broadcast Engineering Authority

*178. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that requests have been made in certain sections of Press to constitute a Broadcast Engineering Authority to meet the needs of the Proposed Prasar Bharati;

(b) if so, the details ther of;

(c) whether it has also been stressed therein that such and authority would ensure quality control and increase in indigenisation of items being imported at present,

(d) whether Government have gone into viability of such requests;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (f) No specific report in the Press about constitution of Broadcast Engineering Authority to meet the needs of the Prasar Bharati appears to have come to the notice of the Government in the recent past. However, a private Society styled 'Broadcast Engineering Society India' had in March, 1990 suggested, *inter alia*, the establishment of an autonomous unit to be named 'Broadcast Engineering Authority of India' and to be financed by the Government, on the lines of similar organisations such as Airport Authority, ISRO etc For providing technical service to various programme production agencies for origination and transmission of their programmes. This suggestion was considered in detail by the Govern-

ment but was not found acceptable in the context of the independent functioning eviaged for the Prasar Bharat Corporation.

Inclusion of Konkani and other Languages in Constitution

*179. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to include Konkani and certain other languages in the Eighth Schdule of the Constitution; and

(b) if so what progress has so far been made in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) The matter is under Consideration of the Government.

Statutory Status to Minorities Commission

*180 CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating conversion of the Minorities Commission into statutory body; and

(b) if so, by when Government propose to bring forward the required legislation for the purpose and what would be the composition of the Commission after being converted as a statutory body?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration.

Reported entry of former Prime Minister of Bangladesh into India

@ 1346. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh alongwith his family and some political colleagues, has entered into India;

(b) if so, what are the details of their whereabouts; and

(c) whether Government propose to grant them political asylum or send them back to Bangladesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Reports appearing in the Press on this subject have come to the notice of Government but there is no confirmation of his presence in India.

(b) and (c) Does not arise

Visit by Shri Lankan Tamil militants to coastal areas in Tamil Nadu

@@1347. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Shri Lankan Tamil militants visit coastal areas in Tamil Nadu to obtain supplies of various goods including diesel and petrol; and

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@Previously Unstarred Question 791 transferred from the 2nd January, 1991.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 770, transferred from the 2nd January, 1991.